

## MESSAGE TO U.S. CITIZENS

U.S. Embassy, Manila, The Philippines

February 11, 2013

### MASSACHUSETTS TO HOLD SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION FOR U.S. SENATE

*THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will hold a special primary election for U.S. Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, to fill the seat vacated by Senator John Kerry.

You can register to vote and request an absentee ballot by mail, fax, or electronically using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) automated tool at <http://www.fvap.gov/request/request-ma.html>. Do not forget to indicate on the FPCA your party preference as well as how you would like to receive your absentee ballot (by mail, fax or email).

**Please note that you will not receive a ballot automatically, even if you voted in the November 6, 2012, General Election.**

If you are concerned about not receiving your ballot in time to vote, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186). The FWAB automated tool is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/request/request-ma.html>.

#### **Important Dates**

FPCA request deadline - Before 12 PM EDT, April 29

Voted ballot received by election authority - Before 8 PM EDT, April 30

**The Special General Election will be held Tuesday, June 25, 2013.**

To determine the status of your absentee ballot request, contact your local election office. You can find contact information for your voting jurisdiction at <http://www.wheredoivotema.com/track/trackmyballot.aspx>.

**Go to [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) to fill out and print your forms today!** Additional information on the completion and submission of these forms is also available, as well as Massachusetts voter-specific information. Find a list of county contact information at <https://www.fvap.gov/r3/jurisdictions/MA>.

Thank you.

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The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (632) 301-2000. American citizens needing to speak to the Embassy can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at [ACSInfoManila@state.gov](mailto:ACSInfoManila@state.gov) or through the [Embassy Facebook page](#). Please visit [our website](#) for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens travelling to our residing in the Philippines enroll in the Department of State's **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** program. Registering gives you access to updated information on travel and security

within the Philippines and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact you in case of emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly at the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate.

You can also stay up to date by bookmarking the [Department of State's website](#), which contains all current [Travel Warnings](#) and [Travel Alerts](#), as well as the current [Worldwide Caution](#). You can also stay up to date by "following" the us on [Twitter](#) and "liking" the Bureau of Consular Affairs on [Facebook](#). Please consult the [Country Specific Information on the Philippines](#), for general information about the Philippines. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. Embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. Current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444 for callers from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).